

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A hydrodynamic bearing system, comprising:

a shaft;

a bearing sleeve, said bearing sleeve having an inner cylindrical bore and said shaft being inserted into said inner cylindrical bore;

a bearing gap formed between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, said bearing gap being filled with a lubricating oil; and

a shield enclosing said bearing sleeve,

wherein said bearing sleeve further comprises a recess having a ~~sharp~~ pointed edge with an acute angle and wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve by being pressed against said ~~sharp~~ pointed edge of said recess.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising at least one ring, said ring being configured to be inserted into said recess to press said shield to said ~~sharp~~ pointed edge.

3. **(Original)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising at least one bearing element mounted on said shaft, wherein said bearing gap is formed between said bearing sleeve and said bearing element.

4. **(Original)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1 further comprising a lubricating oil reservoir, wherein said shield is secured within said recess of said bearing sleeve at a position that is distanced from said lubricating oil reservoir.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 1, wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve at a position on ~~said~~ an end surface that is distanced from said bearing gap, and wherein said shield does not contact said lubricating oil.

6. **(Original)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 2, wherein said ring is a metal ring.

7. **(Original)** The hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 6, wherein said shield, said ring and said sharp edge of said recess form a metal cut seal.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A spindle motor having a hydrodynamic bearing system, said hydrodynamic bearing system comprising:

a shaft;

a bearing sleeve, said bearing sleeve having an inner cylindrical bore and said shaft being inserted into said inner cylindrical bore;

a bearing gap formed between said shaft and said bearing sleeve, said bearing gap being filled with a lubricating oil; and

a shield enclosing said bearing sleeve,

wherein said bearing sleeve further comprises a recess having a ~~sharp~~ pointed edge with an acute angle and wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve by being pressed against said ~~sharp~~ pointed edge of said recess.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The spindle motor according to Claim 8 further comprising at least one ring, said ring being configured to be inserted into said recess to press said shield to said ~~sharp~~ pointed edge.

10. **(Original)** The spindle motor according to Claim 8 further comprising at least one bearing element mounted on said shaft, wherein said bearing gap is formed between said bearing sleeve and said bearing element.

11. **(Original)** The spindle motor according to Claim 8 further comprising a lubricating oil reservoir, wherein said shield is secured within said recess of said bearing sleeve at a position that is distanced from said lubricating oil reservoir.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The spindle motor according to Claim 8, wherein said shield is secured to said bearing sleeve at a position on said ~~an~~ end surface that is distanced from said bearing gap, and wherein said shield does not contact said lubricating oil.

13. **(Original)** The spindle motor according to Claim 9, wherein said ring is a metal ring.

14. **(Original)** The spindle motor according to Claim 13, wherein said shield, said ring and said sharp edge of said recess form a metal cut seal.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method of manufacturing a hydrodynamic bearing system, comprising the steps of:

mounting a bearing element onto a shaft;

inserting said shaft with said bearing element into a bearing sleeve;

filling a bearing gap with lubricating oil while observing the fill level of said lubricating oil;

placing a shield onto said bearing sleeve such that said a portion of said shield is inserted into a recess of said bearing sleeve; and

securing said shield to said bearing sleeve by pressing said portion of said shield against a sharp edge of said recess.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of manufacturing a hydrodynamic bearing system according to Claim 15, wherein said step of securing said shield further comprises inserting a ring into said recess such that said ring presses said portion of said shield against said sharp edge of said recess.